1 Interview Summaries

1.1 Chief Information Officer (CIO), State of Maine

Interview Type Personal, State Agency

Interview Location Burton Cross Building, Augusta

Interview Date November 8, 2001 Summary Date January 24, 2002

Interviewer AGI / Michael Terner (mgt@appgeo.com)

Interviewed: Henry Lanphear, Maine Chief Information Officer

URL: http://www.state.me.us/dafs/

1.1.1 Agency Overview

The Chief Information Officer (CIO) is located within the Division of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS). The CIO's office has a small staff and by design, this office is distinct from the Bureau of Information Services (BIS). While BIS is in charge of operating the state's information technology (IT) infrastructure, the CIO's office is engaged in setting IT strategy and setting a long-term vision for the state's IT infrastructure and services. As an example of this vision-setting role, the CIO's office has been intimately involved in the current Administration's efforts to provide laptop computers for all 7th and 8th graders in Maine.

During 2001 the CIO's office conducted a project to produce a Statewide Information Technology Strategic Plan. The Gartner Group consulting firm executed this plan. The Strategic Plan addressed GIS as one component of the state's IT infrastructure.

1.1.2 GIS Initiatives

1.1.2.1 Overview of GIS Activity/Utilization

The CIO's office is not directly involved in any GIS activities, however, it tracks GIS developments as a component of the overall state IT infrastructure. Opportunity for input into GIS issues is provided through DAFS membership on the state GIS Executive Council, a multi-departmental steering committee aimed at coordinating state GIS activities.

The Statewide IT Strategic Plan proposed several new projects that should be considered for further potential implementation and funding. These projects were presented in tiers of importance with "Statewide IT Endeavor" projects considered most important. A project to build a stronger statewide GIS infrastructure was proposed as one of 10 Statewide IT Endeavor projects. The MeGIS staff was consulted and prepared a brief describing what a statewide GIS project would attempt to accomplish. The CIO was cognizant of this study's efforts to develop a statewide strategy and stated support for many elements of the proposed strategy such as providing state resources to assist COGs and municipalities in their GIS efforts. Although improvements to statewide GIS operations were identified as a priority, it is not clear how much near-term funding will be available for Endeavor Projects, nor which of the 10 Endeavor Projects will receive funding.